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Title: Need to develop tourism infrastructure in Sirumalai Hills near Dindigul in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): Sirumalai Hills covers about 60,000 acre and ranges about 1600 metres from sea level and is 25 Kms. from Dindigul town. It also has a water stream which is an attraction for tourists and view point to view full Dindigul City, Rockfort of Dindigul and Madurai city.

There is a huge scope in developing this Sirumalai as similar or more than that of Ooty and Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu. Keeping in mind the Government of Tamil Nadu headed by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma planned to develop Sirumalai hill near Dindigul in a big way by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department Corporation. It has drawn up a plan to establish a big botanical garden sprawling over 10 acres on the lines of Bryant Park in Kodaikanal and would have all native species. A 35 acre land under the control of Sericulture Department has been identified for developing facilities for tourists.

The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) is going to establish a substation to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the park and areas around it.

I urge upon the Ministry of Tourism to extend a helping hand to the Tamil Nadu Government in developing the Sirumalai Hills as a tourist spot by providing assistance from Tourism Infrastructure Development Fund. The following infrastructure development may be done by the Central sector scheme.

- Constructing a telescope house from tourist point of view.
- Setting up Organic farms as in other Hill stations.
- Rope car facilities may be provided for the tourists.

I also request the Central Government to include Tamil Nadu Government in 'Hunar Se Rozgar Tak' programme.